

ROCHFORD
RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

(JOHN F. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.)

(Barrister-at-Law)

FOR

1941

ROCHFORD AND SOUTHEND :
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LONDON ROAD,

CHELMSFORD,

15th June, 1942.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Rochford
Rural District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1941.

As directed by the Minister of Health the report has been further curtailed.

Owing to the abnormal conditions since the outbreak of war a great amount of time has had to be given to other than normal public health activities.

In spite of the considerable movement of population into the area no increase in the incidence of infectious disease occurred and the general health of the community was maintained.

To my colleagues I am much indebted for their valuable assistance in the preparation of this Report.

It is with much regret that I record the death of Mr. B. G. Ellis your late Sanitary Inspector, which took place on 6th March, 1942. He was an efficient officer and a loyal colleague.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I beg to thank the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam. and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. MACDONALD.

STAFF

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health : John F. Macdonald, M.D., D.P.H., (also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural Districts of Chelmsford and Maldon.)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health : M. C. Barton, (in Forces since September, 1939). Mrs. M. Marshall.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

Chief Sanitary Inspector : Bertram G. Ellis, A.R.San. I. (Housing Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.)

Assistant Sanitary Inspector : R. E. Smith.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspector : M. A. Bentley.

Surveyor : A. C. Madge.

Deputy Surveyor : G. Page.

ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Statistics.

Area (in acres) 36,080 (land and inland water-ways)

Registrar General's estimate of
civilian population, mid-1941 ; omitted.

Rateable value on 31st March, 1941 £94,014

The Sum represented by a Penny Rate
on 31st March, 1941 £355 4s. 5d.

Social Conditions.

The majority of the adult population is engaged in agriculture. The industrial undertakings are limited and cannot be classed as detrimental to the health of the work-people.

Extract from vital statistics of the year.

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian
population mid-1941 = 15.5

Rate of still births per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 32.5

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated civilian population
mid-1941 = 13.6

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Rate per 1,000 of total (live & still) births
No : 29 Puerperal and Post- abortive Sepsis	nil
No : 30 Other maternal causes	nil

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births 32.8

(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. 35.0

(c) Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „ .. Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 31

„ „ Measles (all ages) 1

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) Nil

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR 1940.

	Rate per 1,000 civilian population.		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births.
	Live Births.	Deaths from all causes.	
England and Wales ..	14.2	12.9	59
126 County Boroughs and great towns including London	14.7	14.9	71
148 smaller towns with estimated resident population of from 25,000 to 50,000 (1931 Census)	16.4	13.0	56
Rochford Rural District ..	15.5	13.6*	32.8

* In order to render this figure comparable with the death rate for the country as a whole, it must be multiplied by the "Comparability Factor," or as it is now styled the "Areal Comparability Factor (A.C.F.)," of 0.82 which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite, to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of age and sex components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 11.1 as compared with 14.2 for the country as a whole.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities : Additional facilities to supplement those already available have been provided by the establishment of Emergency Public Health Laboratories, under the direction of the Medical Research Council.

Ambulance Facilities :	These all remain
Nursing in the Home :	the same as
Registered Nursing Homes.	last year.

Treatment Centres and Clinics : The Combined Treatment Centre, Connaught House, Market Square, Rochford now caters for those clinics previously held at the Combined Treatment Centre, Rocheway, Rochford.

Hospitals ; Public and Voluntary. At the end of 1939 the Isolation Hospital at Sutton Ford was closed down. Patients are now sent to Billericay.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water : There were no extensions of the Southend Waterworks Company's mains in the Rochford Rural District during 1941, but at the end of the year 4,949 houses were supplied from the mains as follows :—

Ashingdon, 317 ; Barling, 67 ; Canewdon, 191 ; Fambridge, Sth., 63 ; Hawkwell, 893 ; Hockley, 1,016 ; Rochford, 1,403 ; Stambridge, 80 ; Sutton, 56 ; Wakering, Gt., 758 ; Wakering, Lt., 105.

Drainage and Sewerage : The number of House Drainage Connections made during the year was :—

Parish	Connections
Hockley	1
Great Wakering	1
Rochford	3
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The Council's policy is to extend sewers from time to time in areas which appear to them to be insanitary, but no areas called for special treatment during the year.

Public Cleansing :

The following are particulars of the House Refuse and Night Soil Collection Services at the end of 1940 and 1941, classified according to Parish :—

Parish	Scheme	1940		1941	
		No. of Houses Scavenged for		No. of Houses Scavenged for	
		House Refuse	Night Soil	House Refuse	Night Soil
Ashingdon	Combined Departmental	134	—	135	—
Barling	Combined Departmental	110	69	108	74
Canewdon	do.	177	125	181	123
South Fambridge	do.	56	30	54	32
Foulness Is.	Combined Departmental	75	—	75	—
Hawkwell (1)	Contract	54	—	58	—
Hawkwell (2)	Combined Departmental	645	2	655	8
Hockley	do.	714	64	690	64
Paglesham	Contract	88	—	88	—
Rochford	Combined Departmental	1405	21	1334	17
Stambridge	do.	111	83	106	86
Sutton	Combined Departmental	56	—	53	—
Gt. Wakering	Combined Departmental	826	64	826	68
Lit. Wakering	Combined Departmental	156	87	155	83
Totals		4607	545	4518	555

The salvage scheme inaugurated in 1939 was continued during the year and the following materials were salvaged and returned to industry :—

$57\frac{1}{2}$ tons Waste Paper.
 $13\frac{1}{4}$ tons Ferrous Metal.
 12 tons Tins.
 16 cwts. Non-Ferrous Metals.
 4 tons 14 cwts. Rag.
 $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons Bones.
 $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons Bottles and Jars, (about 94 gross).
 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton Scrap Rubber.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table gives details of the inspections carried out and notices served.

Inspections and Particulars of Notices for the year 1941.

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspections	Notices Outstanding at end of 1940	Notices Served		Notices	
			Informal	Formal	C'plied with	Out-standing at end of 1941
Disinfection	36	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	113	—	—	—	—	1
Housing	209	7	26	6	32	—
Overcrowding	23	—	—	—	—	—
Schools	32	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds and Dairies	65	3	11	—	14	—
Milkshops	9	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	11	—	1	—	1	—
Slaughterhouses	31	1	—	—	1	—
Knackers' Yards	3	—	1	—	1	—
Butchers' Shops	23	—	—	—	—	—
Privies	49	—	14	—	14	—
Water Closets	116	—	19	—	19	—
Cesspools overflowing	65	—	22	—	22	—
House Drainage	271	6	24	1	29	1
Defective Traps	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Supply	97	—	7	1	6	1
Wells Cleansed	33	—	5	—	5	—
Dirty Houses	29	—	5	—	5	—
Drainage Reconstructions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashbins	95	3	31	—	34	3
Scavenging	403	—	28	—	28	—
Fried Fishshops	5	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	26	—	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	149	—	39	—	39	—
Totals	1893	20	233	8	250	3

Smoke Abatement :
Swimming Baths and Pools : } No action taken during
the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs : The usual precautions were taken, but it was found that six Council houses and one other house were infested and were treated appropriately.

Schools : Sanitary conditions are the same.

Camping Sites. Section 269, Public Health Act 1936 provides for the Licensing of Moveable Dwellings. During the year five Licences were granted to use land as sites for Moveable Dwellings and two Licences to station and use Moveable Dwellings.

HOUSING.

The following table gives details of the housing work carried out during the year. It will be seen that the work has been considerably interfered with as a result of other pressing duties and the outbreak of hostilities.

Number of new houses erected during the year ..		Nil
1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—		
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	85
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	200
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	5
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	9
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, ..	Nil

(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	26
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	32
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
	(A)—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	By owners	5
	(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. ..	—
	(C)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	

	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	Nil
4.	Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—	
	(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	14
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..	14
	(iii) „ „ persons (equivalent) dwelling therein	87
	(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
	(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding re- lieved during the year	6
	(ii) Number of persons (equivalent) con- cerned in such cases	39½
	(d)—Observation is kept of the records of border-line houses so that when they become overcrowded due to the increasing ages of the inmates they are reported to the Committee. Owing to the 6 cases relieved, the number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year was decreased to 14.	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

Five Supplementary Licences to sell milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938, were issued during the year. Two Licences to sell “Tuberculin Tested” (Pasteurised) and “Pasteurised” Milks were issued to a Limited Company operating rounds within the District from premises outside, and two Licences to sell “Tuberculin Tested” and “Pasteurised” Milks were issued to a Limited Company with a dépôt in the District. One Licence to sell “Tuberculin Tested” Milk was issued to a registered retailer in the District.

(b) Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

At the end of the year there were forty-nine Cowkeepers, in addition to fifteen Retail Purveyors and one Wholesale and Retail Purveyor of Milk, making a total of sixty-five.

Five new Producers were registered ; four as Wholesale Purveyors and one as a Wholesale and Retail Purveyor.

Five Producers gave up business during the year, of which four were Wholesale Purveyors and one a Wholesale and Retail Purveyor.

(c) Meat and other Foods.

There were 12 Licensed Slaughterhouses in the District in 1941, but these were used very little, and since the 22nd August, 1940 when the Government Slaughterhouse was temporarily closed; no animals have been slaughtered under the Government Slaughtering Scheme except in emergency and under permit from the Ministry of Food for private use. Thirteen pigs and 1 sheep were slaughtered during the year. The following foodstuffs were condemned :—

- 30lbs. Bacon.
- 3lbs. Pork Sausage Meat (Tinned).
- 106lbs. Butter.
- 900 Canadian Eggs.
- 1 Ox Liver.
- 1 Lamb's Liver.
- 1 Sheep's Pluck.

Bakehouses.

There are 10 in the district.

In one case informal notice to cleanse the premises was found necessary.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

The number of diphtheria cases notified during the year was 10 as compared with 6 the previous year and 28 during 1939.

Parents were offered immunisation against diphtheria for their children and at the end of 1941 the percentage of the child population immunised was 30, representing 15% of the children under 5 years and 36% of the children between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

During the year, 3 died as the result of an attack of Diphtheria, none of them had been immunised. It is hoped that parents will take advantage of the facilities now offered and thus assist as far as they can in protecting their children against such a serious disease as Diphtheria.

The infectious diseases are classified according to age and parish in the following tables :—

Notifiable Diseases during the Year. (Exclusive of Tuberculosis).

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	12	—	—	—	2	—	4	2	1	—	2	—	1	9	—
Diphtheria ..	11	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	3	1	—	1	—	10	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	13	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	4	3	—	2
Erysipelas ..	9	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	5	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	63	5	7	10	8	10	21	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles ..	238	5	14	17	23	24	121	29	1	3	1	—	—	2	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	350	12	23	27	34	35	149	39	5	7	4	10	5	24	8

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age	†New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1—5	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..
5—10	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
10—15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15—20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20—25	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
25—35	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	1
35—45	2	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
45—55	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..
55—65	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
65 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	7	4	1	4	5	2	..	2

Not including cases of Tuberculosis removed into the district during the year which had been previously notified elsewhere.

TABLE SHOWING LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES NOTIFIED
DURING 1941.

Parish	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Totals
Ashingdon	1	1	3	35	..	..	..	40
Barling
Canewdon	1	28	..	..	..	29
Fambridge, South	1	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	6
Foulness
Havengore
Hawkwell	1	..	..	2	2	17	19	..	..	1	42
Hockley	3	..	..	2	4	30	44	..	5	2	90
Paglesham	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
Rochford ..	1	5	..	..	8	1	11	99	..	6	2	133
Stambridge	8	..	..	..	8
Sutton
Wakering, Great	..	3	8	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	13
Wakering, Little	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Totals ..	1	12	11	1	13	9	63	238	2	11	5	366

REPORT OF PETROLEUM INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

The Minister of Home Security in conjunction with the Military Authorities made an order which came into operation on the 1st July, 1940 restricting the storage of Petroleum Spirit. During 1941, therefore, only one garage acting as agent for the Petroleum Board and one farmer, apart from the District Council and the Military Authorities, were storing petrol.

In addition one Licence was issued authorising to storage of 560 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

BERTRAM G. ELLIS,
Petroleum Inspector.

